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## Statewide Building Construction Safety Standards and Exempt Jurisdictions

### Statewide Building Construction Safety Standards

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(A) makes the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office responsible for promulgating rules establishing minimum statewide building construction safety standards for construction of certain occupancies. The current standards are:

- SBCCI Standard Building Code, 1999 edition, including SBCCI Standard Gas Code, 1999 edition, and SBCCI Standard Mechanical Code, 1997 edition. **(UNTIL AUGUST 31, 2008)**
- International Building Code, 2006 edition (except for Chapter 11 pertaining to accessibility and Chapter 27 pertaining to electrical requirements and the International Electrical Code)
- Uniform Fire Code (NFPA 1), 2003 edition, including each reference in NFPA 1, Chapter 2 (excluding NFPA 5000).
- International Fire Code, 2006 edition and the Life Safety Code (NFPA No. 1001-2006), 2006 edition. **(UNTIL DECEMBER 20, 2007)**

### Exempt Jurisdictions

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(b) allows local governments to adopt and enforce their own building construction safety standards for buildings other than state buildings, educational occupancies or any other occupancy requiring inspection by the State Fire Marshal for initial licensure, if the local governments meet specific requirements set out in the statute (hereinafter "Exempt Jurisdictions"). In order to enforce their own building standards, Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(b)(2)(A) requires Exempt Jurisdictions to:

- adopt a building construction safety code consisting of a version of:
  - the International Building Code; and
  - the International Fire Code; or
  - the Uniform Fire Code;
- adequately enforce its codes; and
- review construction plans and specifications that are required by the State Fire Marshal's Office in Rule 0780-2-3-.03.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(b)(3)(A) requires the State Fire Marshal to audit each Exempt Jurisdiction every three (3) years to ensure that the local jurisdiction is adequately performing its enforcement functions.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(b)(4)(A) requires an Exempt Jurisdiction's building construction safety code publications to be current within seven (7) years of the date of the latest editions thereof, unless otherwise approved by the state fire marshal. The latest editions of the building construction safety code publications are the 2006 editions.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-101(b)(4) gives the State Fire Marshall the authority to revoke an exempt jurisdiction's code enforcement ability if the jurisdiction's building construction safety code publications are not current within seven (7) years of the date of the latest editions thereof or the jurisdiction is not adequately performing its enforcement functions.